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Butt-Ugly Rat Productions

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL

THE PLANET MOBIUS WAS ONCE A VIRTUAL PARADISE UNTIL IT WAS CONQUERED BY THE EVIL DOCTOR ROBOTNIK! HIS TECHNOLOGICAL TYRANNY WOULD HAVE CONTINUED IF NOT FOR A HEROIC GROUP OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO BANDED TOGETHER AND RESTORED ORDER TO THE KINGDOM OF ACORN! THE BRAVEST AMONG THEM IS A BLUE STREAK FILLED WITH THE MOST ATTITUDE GOING AROUND — AND, WITHOUT A DOUBT, HE IS THE MOST FASTEST THING ALIVE!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

ZONE WARS: PRELUDE

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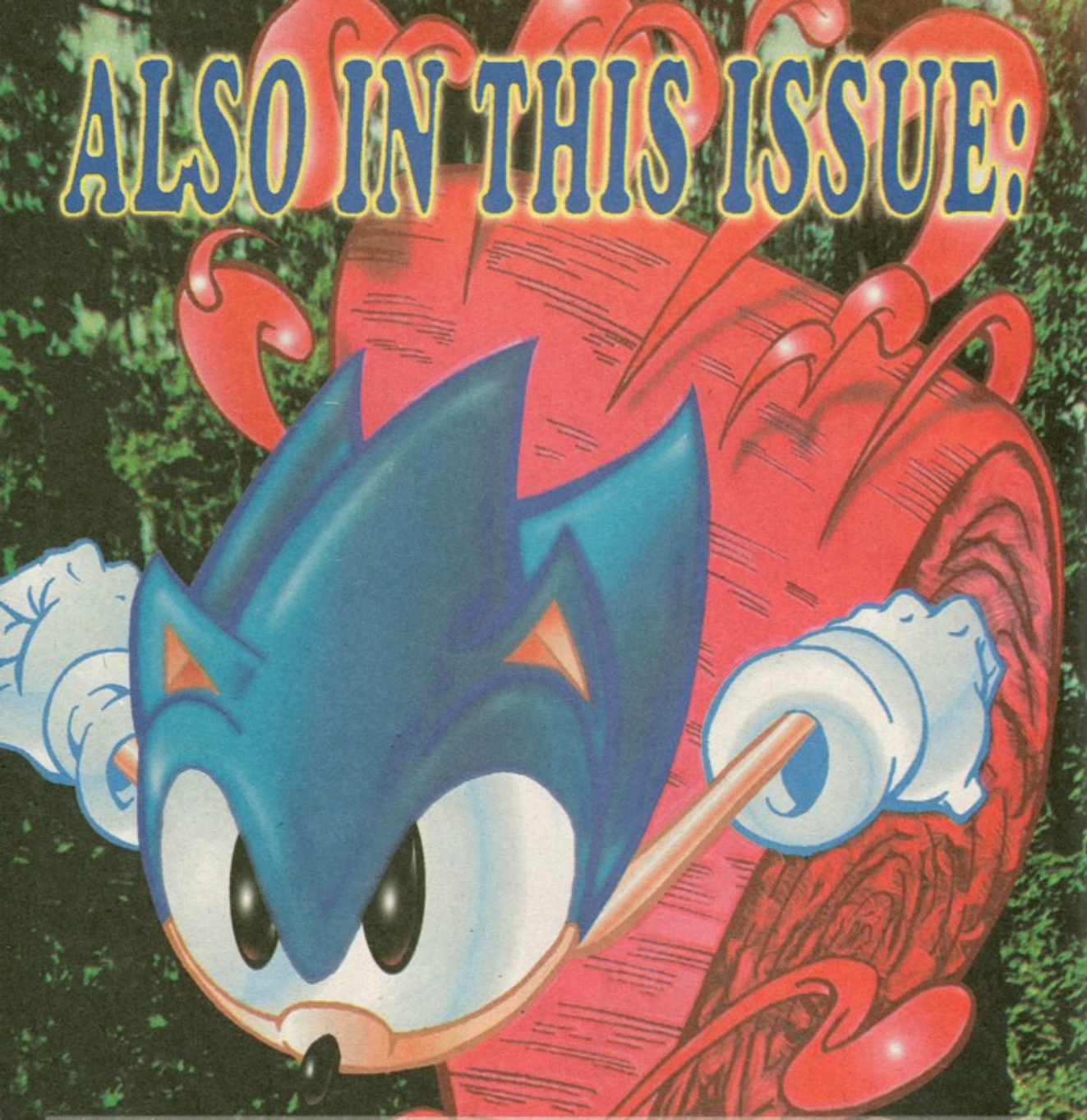

RUNNING ON EMPTY

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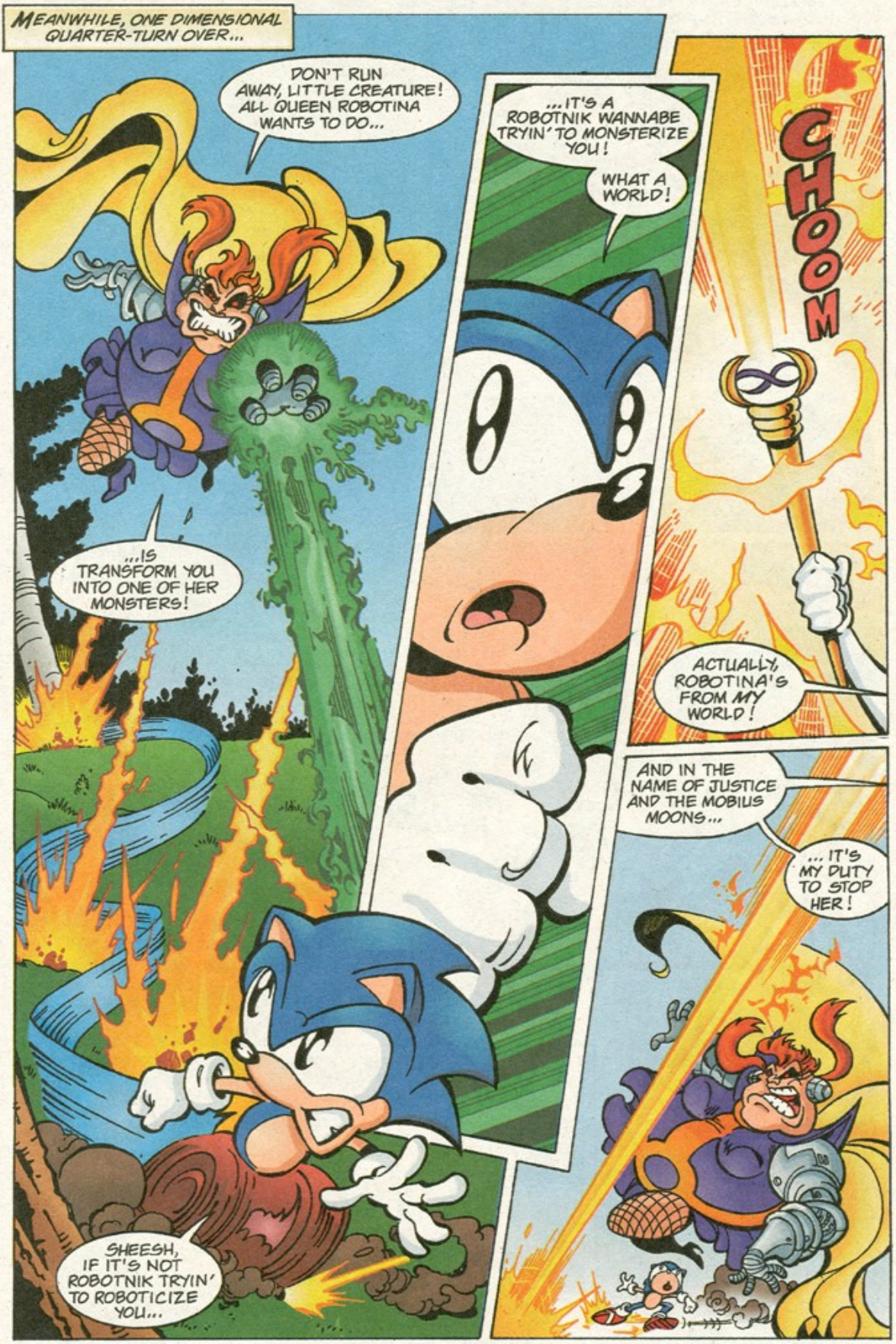
VICKIE WILLIAMS
Letterer

Ribeiro

THE NO ZONE: A PLACE 90 DEGREES FROM EVERYWHERE...
ZEEP
ZONIC, THE ZONE COP, REPORT IN!
HERE.
WANTED
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY ZONE BREACH IN PROGRESS!
DR. IVANA ROBOTINA...
...EVIL SORCERESS OF THE LUNA ZONE, HAS TRANSPORTED TO MOBIUS PRIME...
...AND IS ENGAGED IN HEATED CONFLICT WITH
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
IN
ZONE WARS: PRELUDE
I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT...
...AS SOON AS I "ZONE UP" SOME REENFORCEMENTS!
ZOOP!

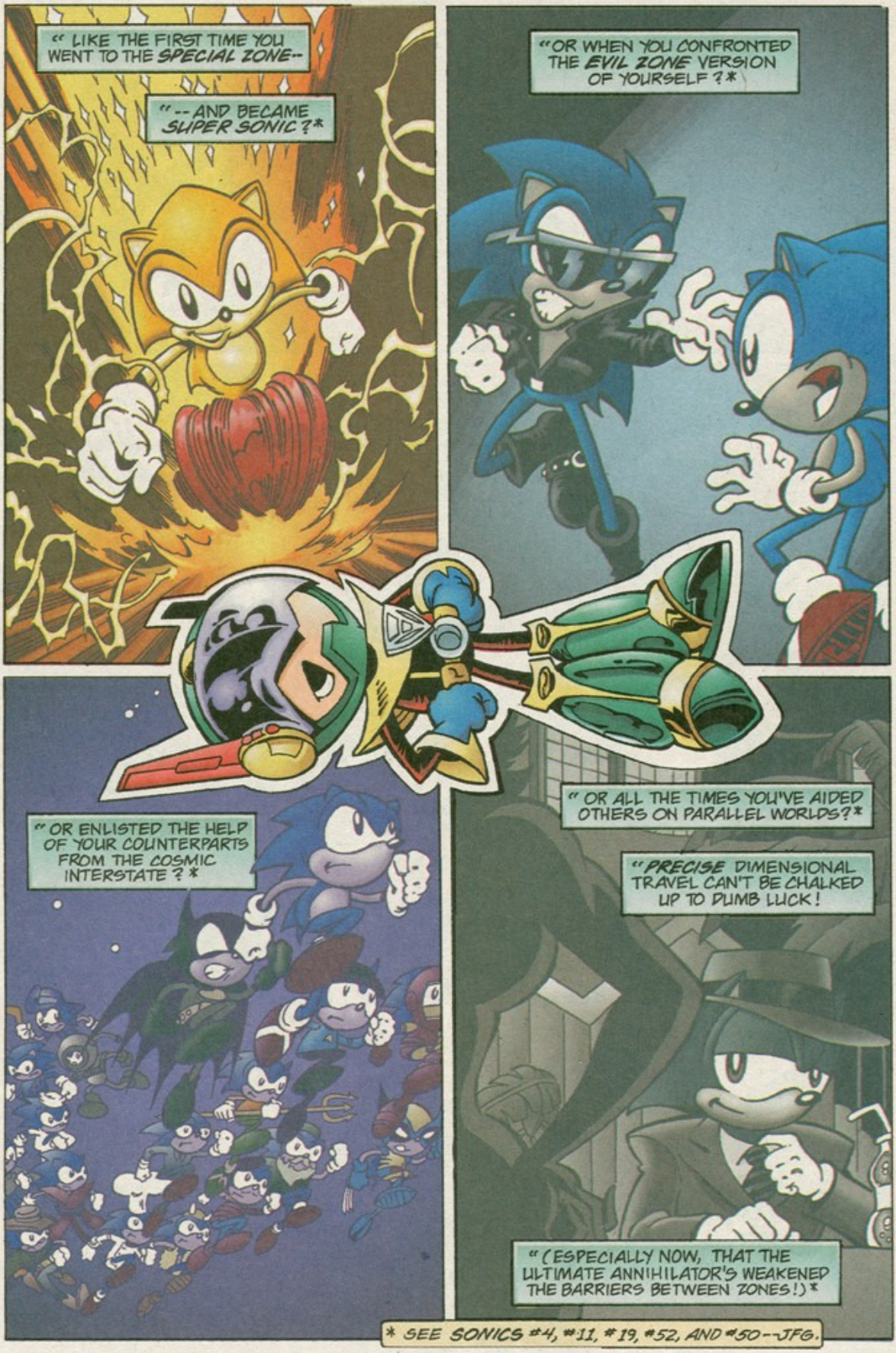

MEANWHILE, ONE DIMENSIONAL QUARTER-TURN OVER...
DON'T RUN AWAY, LITTLE CREATURE! ALL QUEEN ROBOTINA WANTS TO DO...
...IS TRANSFORM YOU INTO ONE OF HER MONSTERS!
SHEESH, IF IT'S NOT ROBOTNIK TRYIN' TO ROBOTICIZE YOU...
...IT'S A ROBOTNIK WANNABE TRYIN' TO MONSTERIZE YOU!
WHAT A WORLD!
CHOOM
ACTUALLY, ROBOTINA'S FROM MY WORLD!
AND IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE AND THE MOBIUS MOONS...
... IT'S MY DUTY TO STOP HER!

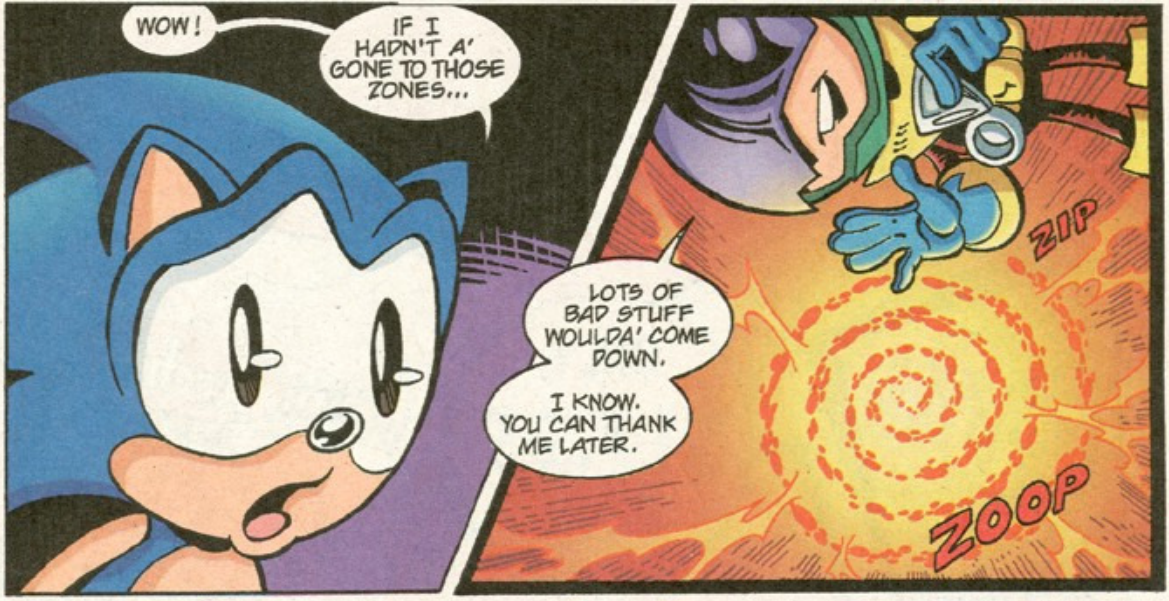
FOR I AM PRETTY SOLDIER SALLY MOON!
AND I'M CHIBI ROSE! HELLO!
WHAT THE?...
MEDDLESOME BRATS! FOLLOW ME TO THIS DIMENSION, WILL YOU?!
CHOOM!
WELL, THIS WILL PUT A STOP TO YOU...
...ONCE AND FOR--
THWIP
BUT!
OUCH.

SALLY MOON, LOOK!
IT'S TUXEDO KNUCKS! HE'S COME TO SAVE US!
FWUMP!
OH, WOW!
WHA--?
I TRUST YOU'RE OKAY NOW, PRINCESS?
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, TUXEDO KNUX.
WHAT?!

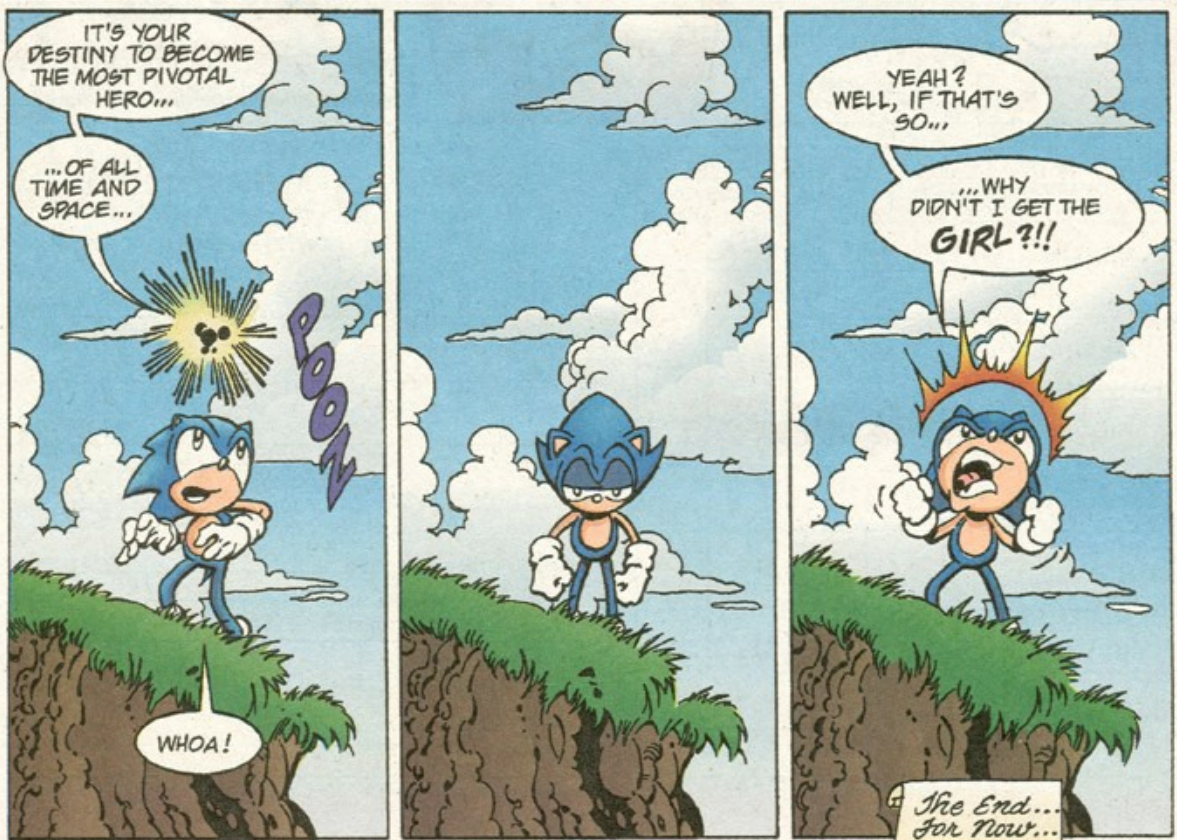
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
ALL RIGHT, MOVE ALONG.
ZONE POLICE COMING THROUGH.
ZIP
ZOOP!
TIME FOR EVERYONE TO RETURN...
...TO THEIR ZONE OF ORIGIN!
YOU! SIDEWAYS GUY! I WANT ANSWERS! NOW!
SURE, KID. SEE, I'M A ZONE COP...
I COME FROM A PERPENDICULAR ZONE...
...WHICH RUNS THROUGH EVERY PARALLEL DIMENSION.
LIKE YOUR ZONE, MOBIUS PRIME...
...AND THEIR ZONE, THE LUNA ZONE.
BYE!
SEE YA!

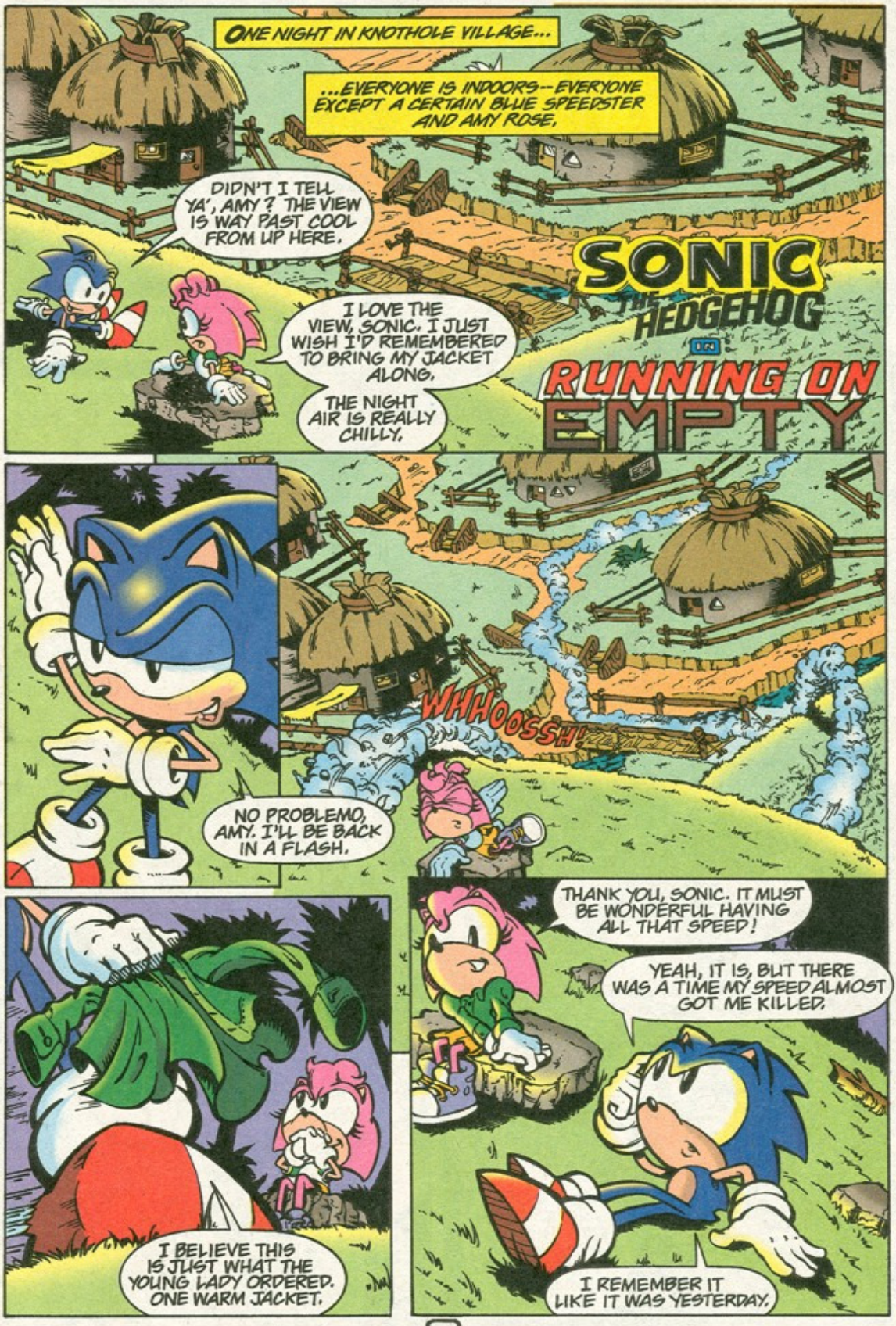
IT'S MY JOB TO MAINTAIN MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ORDER...
...AND MAKE SURE NOBODY GOES INTO ZONES THEY DON'T BELONG.
POOZ
PIZ
YEAH, RIGHT!
LOOK, I'VE BEEN TO DOZENS OF ZONES, AND NOBODY'S STOPPED ME...
ON THE CONTRARY, I SENT YOU THERE.
YOU WHAT?!!
COME ON, SONIC, WISE UP.
YOU THINK ZONE PORTALS USED TO JUST POP OUT OF NOWHERE...
...AND ZOOP...
...YOU'D WIND UP IN A ZONE WHERE YOU WERE NEEDED?

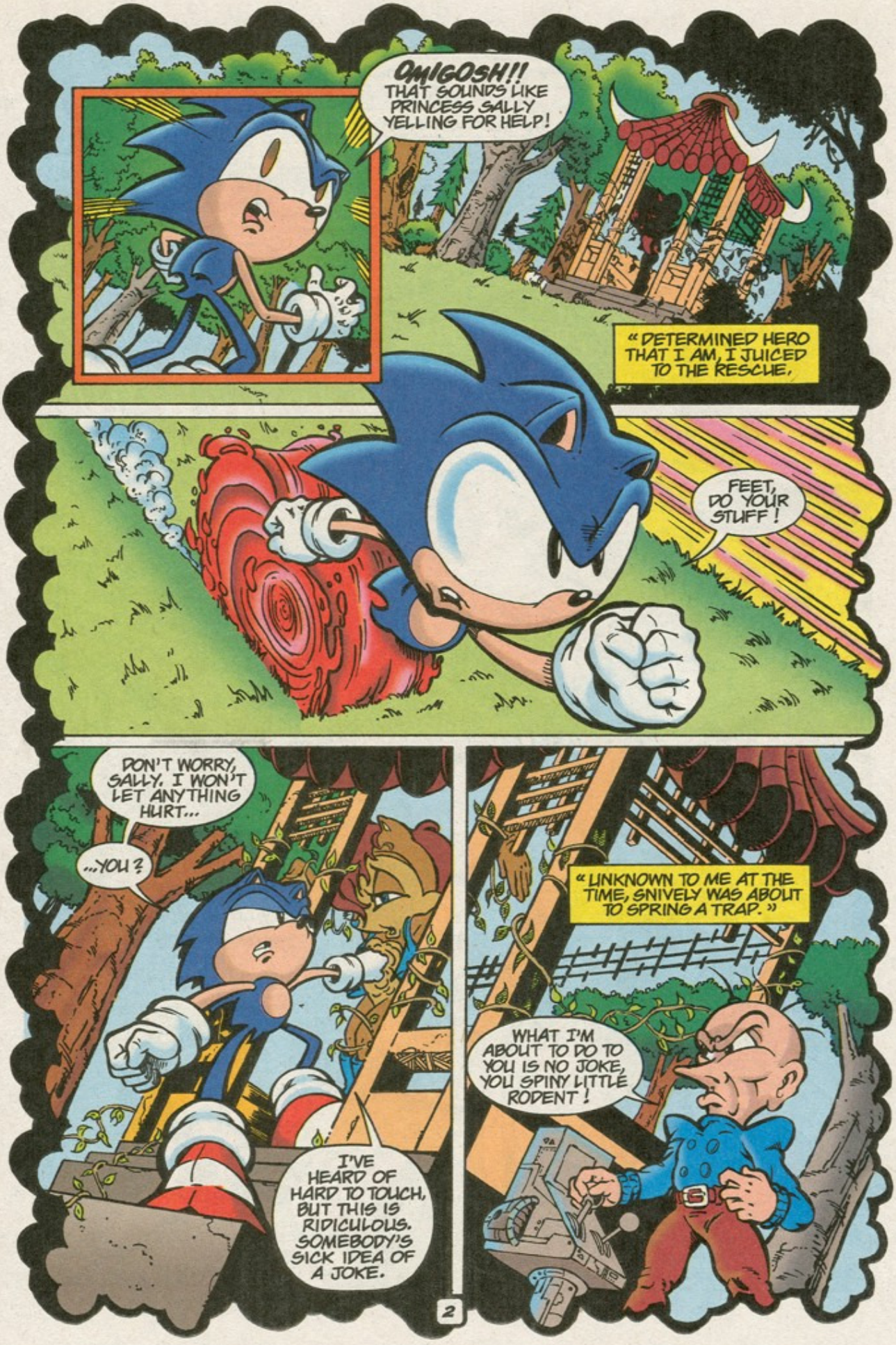

" LIKE THE FIRST TIME YOU WENT TO THE SPECIAL ZONE--
" -- AND BECAME SUPER SONIC ?*
"OR WHEN YOU CONFRONTED THE EVIL ZONE VERSION OF YOURSELF ?*
" OR ENLISTED THE HELP OF YOUR COUNTERPARTS FROM THE COSMIC INTERSTATE ?*
" OR ALL THE TIMES YOU'VE AIDED OTHERS ON PARALLEL WORLDS?*
"PRECISE DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL CAN'T BE CHALKED UP TO DUMB LUCK!
" (ESPECIALLY NOW, THAT THE ULTIMATE ANNIHILATOR'S WEAKENED THE BARRIERS BETWEEN ZONES!)*
* SEE SONICS #4, #11, #19, #52, AND #50 --JFG.

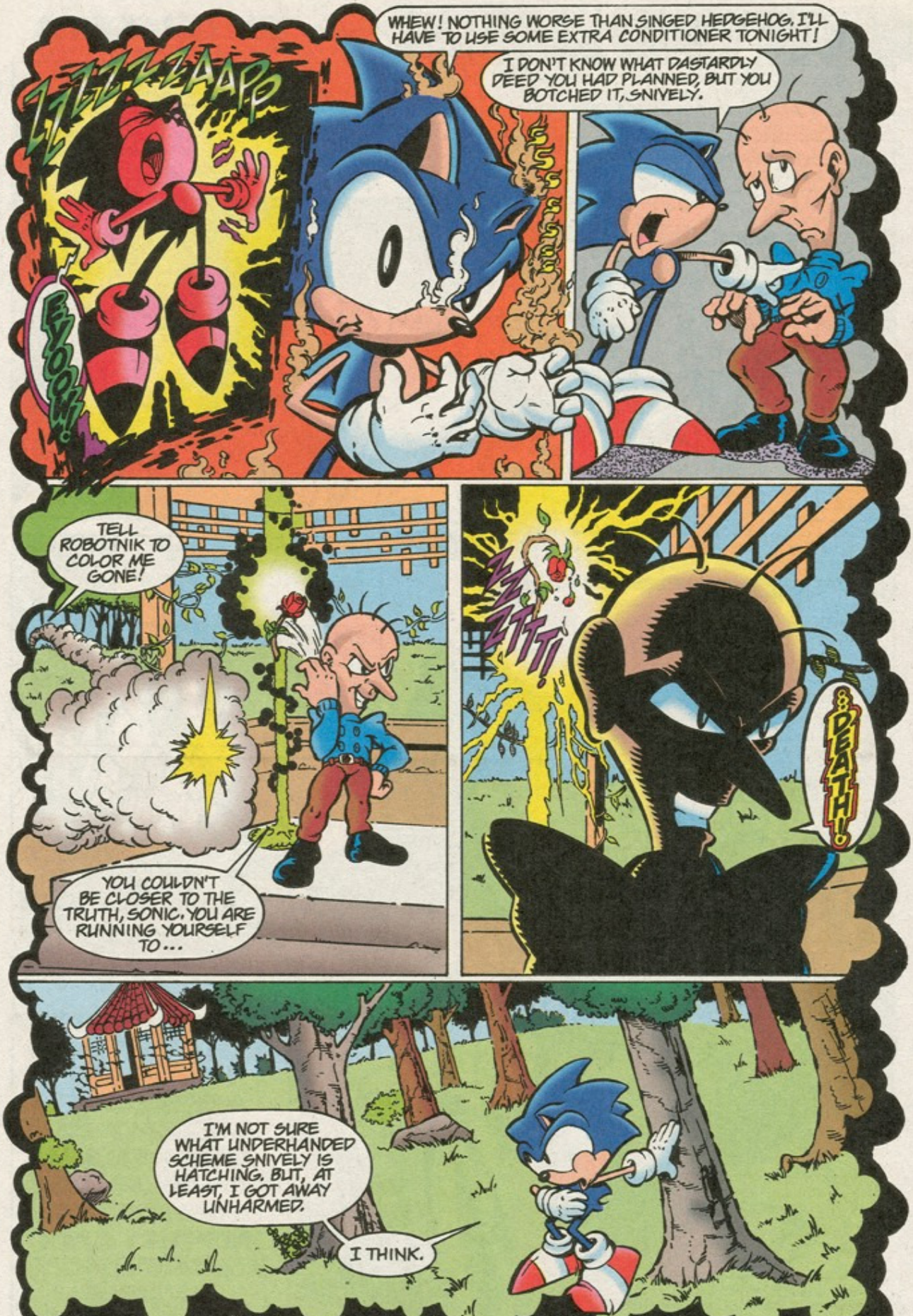

WOW!
IF I HADN'T A' GONE TO THOSE ZONES...
LOTS OF BAD STUFF WOULDA' COME DOWN.
I KNOW. YOU CAN THANK ME LATER.
ZIP
ZOOP

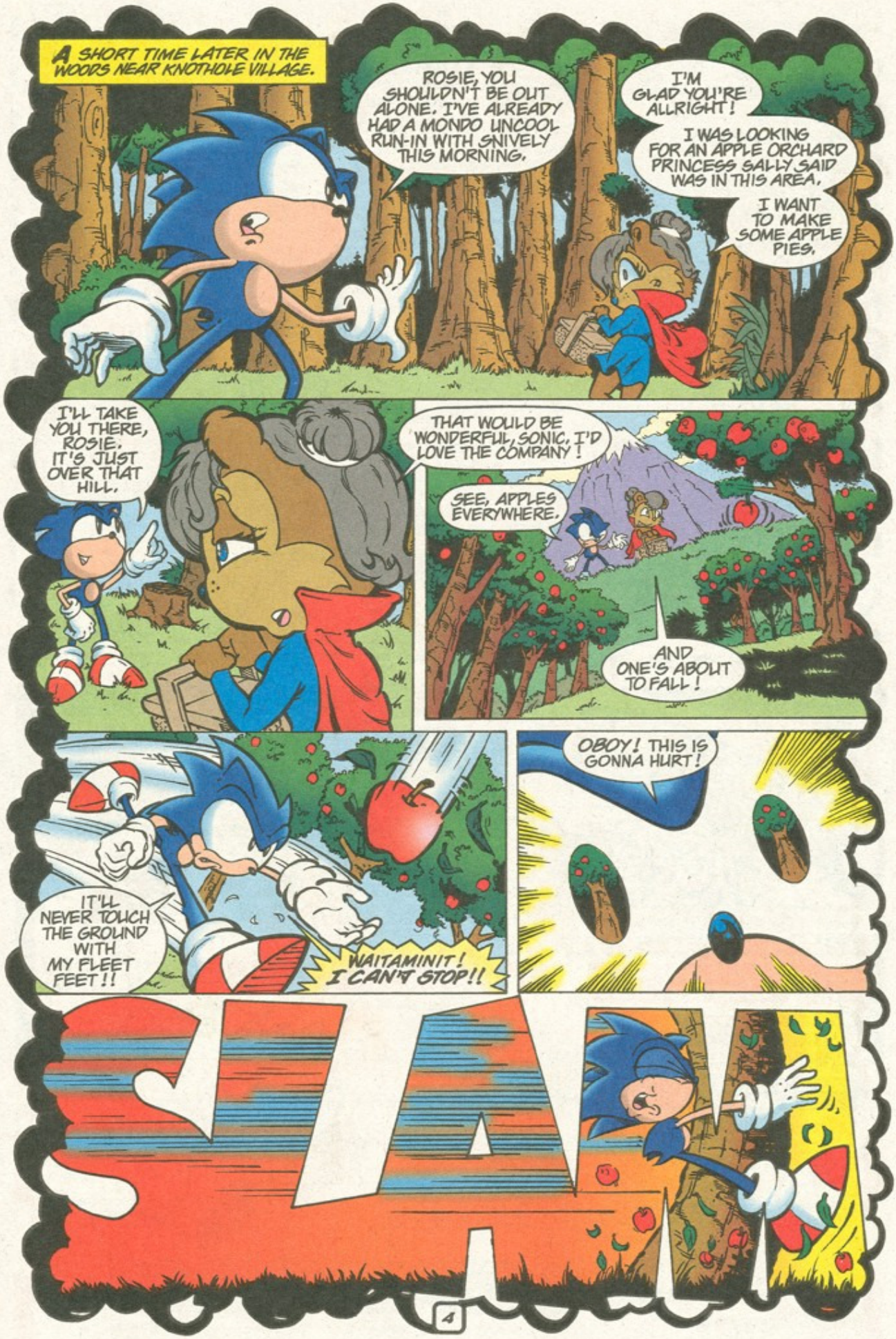
BUT WHY ALWAYS ME?
WHY NOT SEND SOMEBODY ELSE?
'CAUSE YOU'RE SONIC PRIME, THE ONE TRUE SONIC OF ALL THE DIMENSIONS.
PIZ

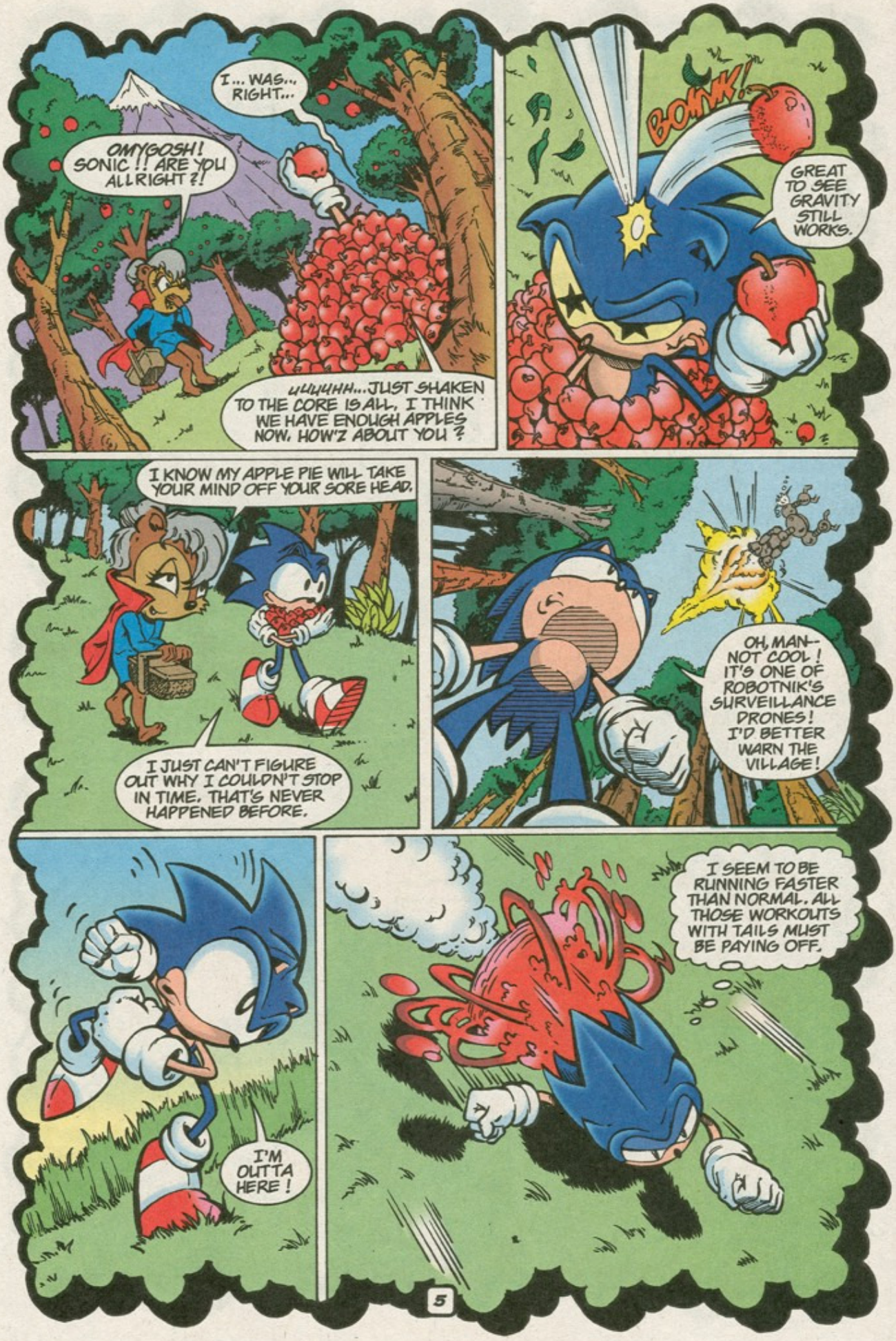

IT'S YOUR DESTINY TO BECOME THE MOST PIVOTAL HERO...
...OF ALL TIME AND SPACE...
POON
WHOA!
YEAH? WELL, IF THAT'S SO...
...WHY DIDN'T I GET THE GIRL?!!
The End... For Now...


ONE NIGHT IN KNOTHOLE VILLAGE...
...EVERYONE IS INDOORS--EVERYONE EXCEPT A CERTAIN BLUE SPEEDSTER AND AMY ROSE.
DIDN'T I TELL YA', AMY? THE VIEW IS WAY PAST COOL FROM UP HERE.
I LOVE THE VIEW, SONIC. I JUST WISH I'D REMEMBERED TO BRING MY JACKET ALONG.
THE NIGHT AIR IS REALLY CHILLY.
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG in RUNNING ON EMPTY
WHHOOSSH!
NO PROBLEMO, AMY. I'LL BE BACK IN A FLASH.
I BELIEVE THIS IS JUST WHAT THE YOUNG LADY ORDERED. ONE WARM JACKET.
THANK YOU, SONIC. IT MUST BE WONDERFUL HAVING ALL THAT SPEED!
YEAH, IT IS, BUT THERE WAS A TIME MY SPEED ALMOST GOT ME KILLED.
I REMEMBER IT LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY.

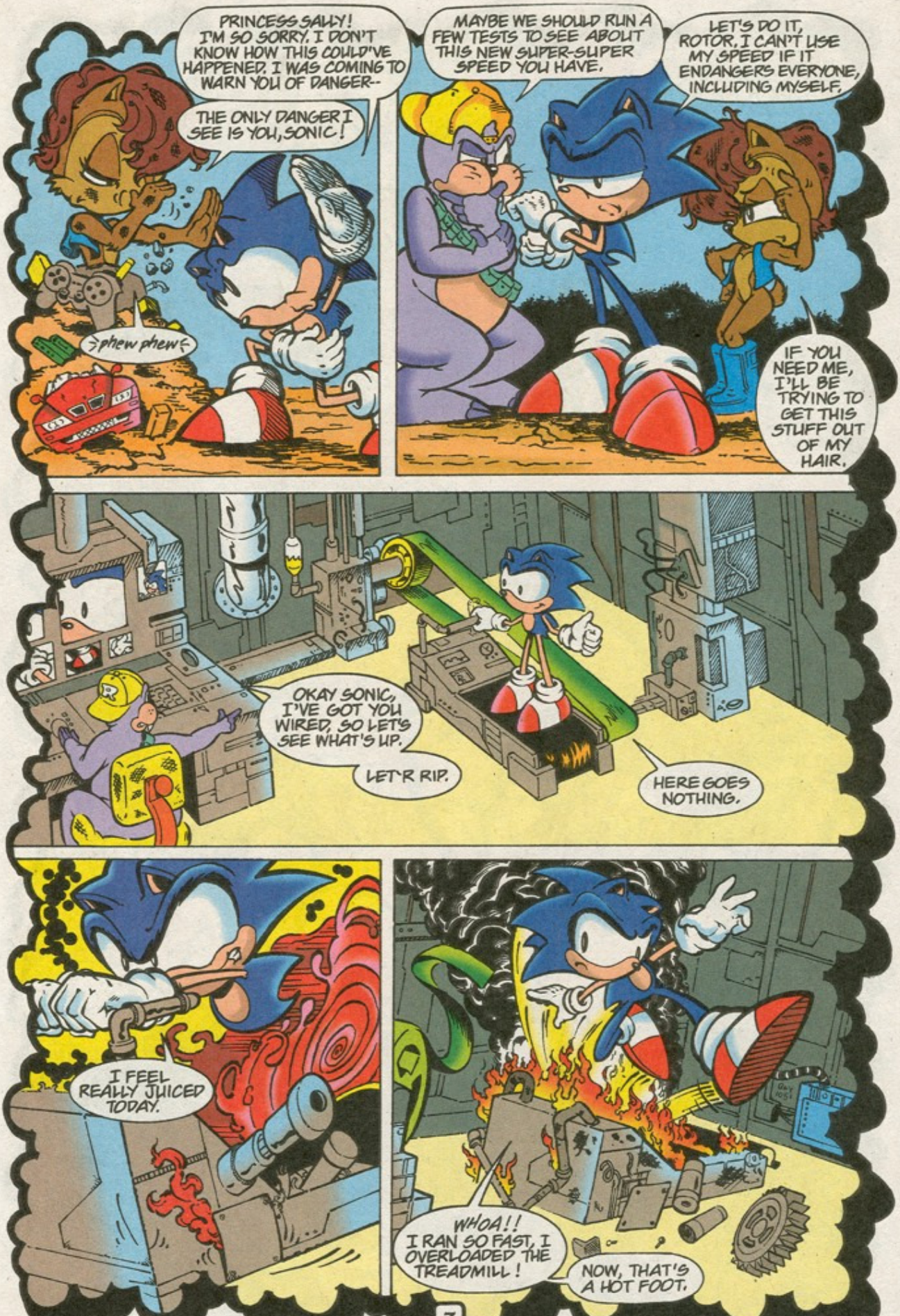

OMIGOSH!! THAT SOUNDS LIKE PRINCESS SALLY YELLING FOR HELP!
« DETERMINED HERO THAT I AM, I JUICED TO THE RESCUE,
FEET, DO YOUR STUFF!
DON'T WORRY, SALLY. I WON'T LET ANYTHING HURT...
...YOU?
I'VE HEARD OF HARD TO TOUCH, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS. SOMEBODY'S SICK IDEA OF A JOKE.
« UNKNOWN TO ME AT THE TIME, SNIVELY WAS ABOUT TO SPRING A TRAP. »
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO TO YOU IS NO JOKE, YOU SPINY LITTLE RODENT!

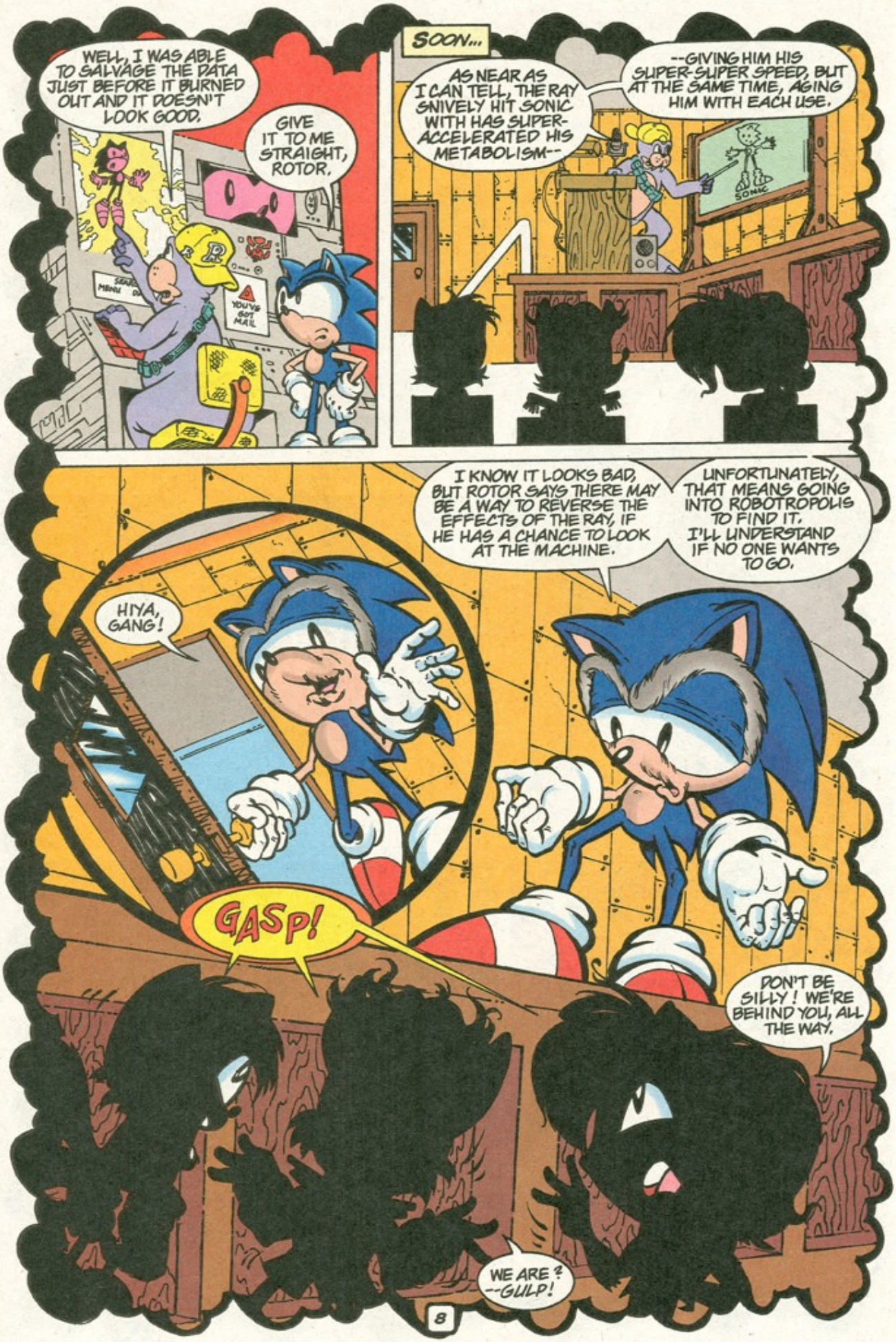

WHEW! NOTHING WORSE THAN SINGED HEDGEHOG, I'LL HAVE TO USE SOME EXTRA CONDITIONER TONIGHT!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT DASTARDLY DEED YOU HAD PLANNED, BUT YOU BOTCHED IT, SNIVELY.
ZZZZZAAP
SSSSSSS
BOOM!
TELL ROBOTNIK TO COLOR ME GONE!
YOU COULDN'T BE CLOSER TO THE TRUTH, SONIC. YOU ARE RUNNING YOURSELF TO...
ZZTTT!
& DEATH!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT UNDERHANDED SCHEME SNIVELY IS HATCHING. BUT, AT LEAST, I GOT AWAY UNHARMED.
I THINK.


A SHORT TIME LATER IN THE WOODS NEAR KNOTHOLE VILLAGE.
ROSIE, YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT ALONE. I'VE ALREADY HAD A MONDO UNCOOL RUN-IN WITH SNIVELY THIS MORNING.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALLRIGHT!
I WAS LOOKING FOR AN APPLE ORCHARD PRINCESS SALLY SAID WAS IN THIS AREA.
I WANT TO MAKE SOME APPLE PIES.
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE, ROSIE. IT'S JUST OVER THAT HILL.
THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL, SONIC, I'D LOVE THE COMPANY!
SEE, APPLES EVERYWHERE.
AND ONE'S ABOUT TO FALL!
OBOY! THIS IS GONNA HURT!
IT'LL NEVER TOUCH THE GROUND WITH MY FLEET FEET!!
WAITAMINIT! I CAN'T STOP!!
SLAM

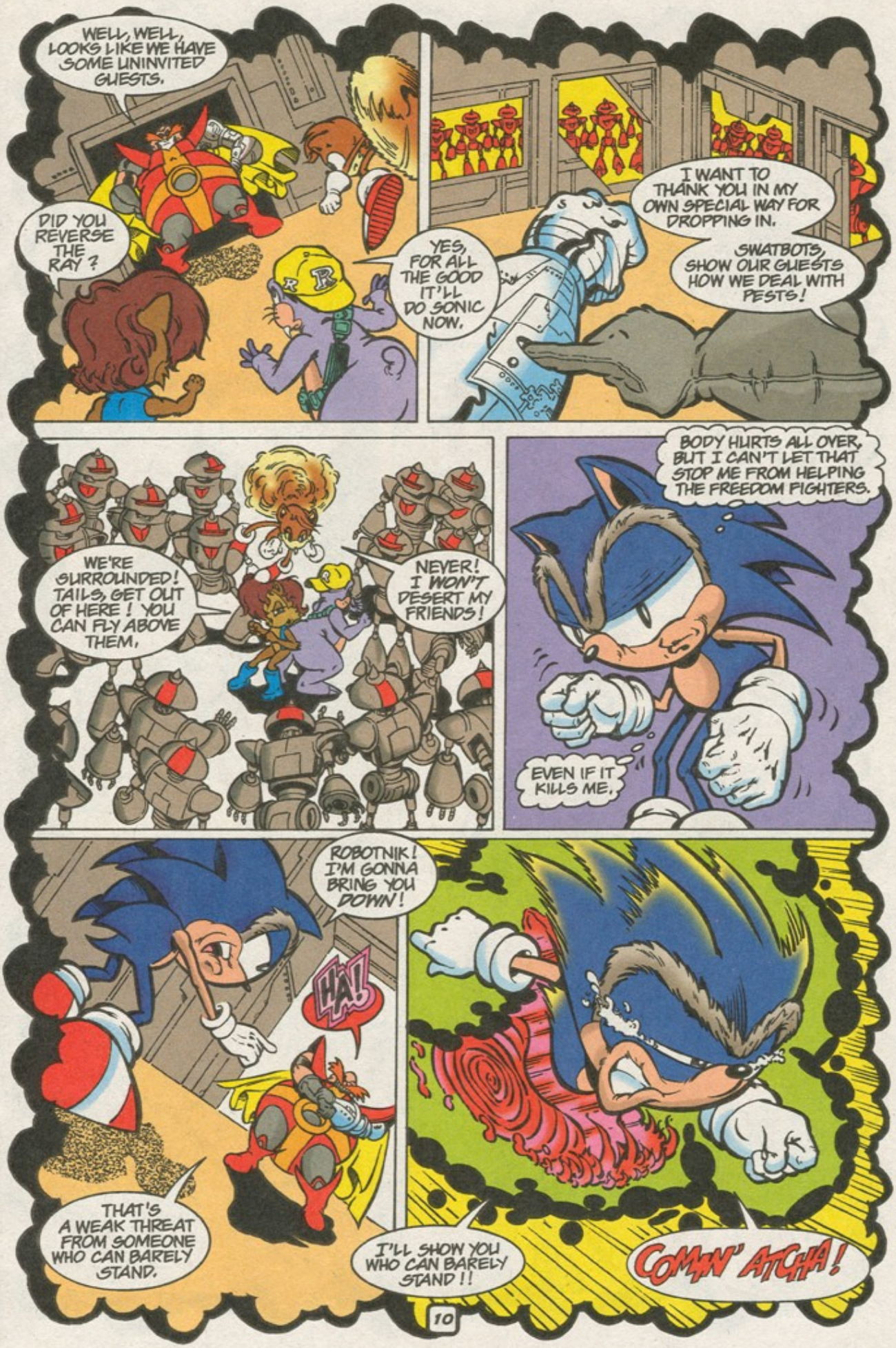

I... WAS... RIGHT...
OMYGOSH! SONIC!! ARE YOU ALLRIGHT?!
UUUHHH...JUST SHAKEN TO THE CORE IS ALL, I THINK WE HAVE ENOUGH APPLES NOW. HOW'Z ABOUT YOU?
BONK!
GREAT TO SEE GRAVITY STILL WORKS.
I KNOW MY APPLE PIE WILL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR SORE HEAD.
I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY I COULDN'T STOP IN TIME. THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
OH, MAN— NOT COOL! IT'S ONE OF ROBOTNIK'S SURVEILLANCE DRONES! I'D BETTER WARN THE VILLAGE!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
I SEEM TO BE RUNNING FASTER THAN NORMAL. ALL THOSE WORKOUTS WITH TAILS MUST BE PAYING OFF.

"AS I WAS SPEEDING TOWARDS KNOTHOLE VILLAGE, I DIDN'T NOTICE THE TRAIL OF JUNK AND STUFF BEING SUCKED UP BEHIND ME."
LOOK OUT, GANG!! I CAN'T STOP!!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SONIC MOVE SO FAST.
HE JUST BARELY MISSED US!
>whew< FINALLY STOPPED!
I MUST'VE SKIDDED A MONTH'S TREAD OFF MY SHOES. WHAT ELSE COULD GO WRONG?
LOOK OUT!! INCOMING!!
THIS IS WAY PAST UNCOOL! I JUST TRASHED MY FRIENDS!
MUMBLE
MUMBLE


PRINCESS SALLY! I'M SO SORRY. I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS COULD'VE HAPPENED. I WAS COMING TO WARN YOU OF DANGER--
THE ONLY DANGER I SEE IS YOU, SONIC!
phew phew
MAYBE WE SHOULD RUN A FEW TESTS TO SEE ABOUT THIS NEW SUPER-SUPER SPEED YOU HAVE.
LET'S DO IT, ROTOR. I CAN'T USE MY SPEED IF IT ENDANGERS EVERYONE, INCLUDING MYSELF.
IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE TRYING TO GET THIS STUFF OUT OF MY HAIR.
OKAY SONIC, I'VE GOT YOU WIRED, SO LET'S SEE WHAT'S UP.
LET'R RIP.
HERE GOES NOTHING.
I FEEL REALLY JUICED TODAY.
WHOA!! I RAN SO FAST, I OVERLOADED THE TREADMILL!
NOW, THAT'S A HOT FOOT.


WELL, I WAS ABLE TO SALVAGE THE DATA JUST BEFORE IT BURNED OUT AND IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT, ROTOR.
YOU'VE GOT MAIL
SOON...
AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, THE RAY SNIVELY HIT SONIC WITH HAS SUPER-ACCELERATED HIS METABOLISM--
--GIVING HIM HIS SUPER-SUPER SPEED, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, AGING HIM WITH EACH USE.
SONIC
I KNOW IT LOOKS BAD, BUT ROTOR SAYS THERE MAY BE A WAY TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF THE RAY, IF HE HAS A CHANCE TO LOOK AT THE MACHINE.
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MEANS GOING INTO ROBOTROPOLIS TO FIND IT. I'LL UNDERSTAND IF NO ONE WANTS TO GO.
HIYA, GANG!
GASP!
DON'T BE SILLY! WE'RE BEHIND YOU, ALL THE WAY.
WE ARE? --GULP!

I CAN'T THANK YOU GUYS ENOUGH FOR COMING WITH ME, YOU'RE NO SCARDEYCATS LIKE ANTOINE.
BIOHAZARD
CAUTION
OH, SONIC, THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR.
WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT MACHINE FAST. SONIC IS LOOKING WORSE BY THE MINUTE.
DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, PRINCESS SALLY, WE'LL FIND IT!
HEY, GUYS! I THINK THIS IS IT!
CAN YOU REVERSE THE RAY, ROTOR?
DO NOT TOUCH
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME, BUT I THINK I CAN.
WE'LL STILL HAVE TO GET PAST THE SECURITY CODE TO USE IT.
CAUTION
HIGH VOLTS
"THERE HE WAS, AMY, ROTOR HAD SWEAT STINGING HIS EYES AS HE WORKED FEVERISHLY TO CRACK THE CODE AND SAVE MY LIFE."


WELL, WELL, LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE SOME UNINVITED GUESTS.
DID YOU REVERSE THE RAY ?
YES, FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO SONIC NOW.
I WANT TO THANK YOU IN MY OWN SPECIAL WAY FOR DROPPING IN.
SWATBOTS, SHOW OUR GUESTS HOW WE DEAL WITH PESTS!
WE'RE SURROUNDED! TAILS, GET OUT OF HERE ! YOU CAN FLY ABOVE THEM.
NEVER! I WON'T DESERT MY FRIENDS!
BODY HURTS ALL OVER, BUT I CAN'T LET THAT STOP ME FROM HELPING THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.
ROBOTNIK! I'M GONNA BRING YOU DOWN!
HA!
THAT'S A WEAK THREAT FROM SOMEONE WHO CAN BARELY STAND.
I'LL SHOW YOU WHO CAN BARELY STAND !!
COMIN' ATCHA!

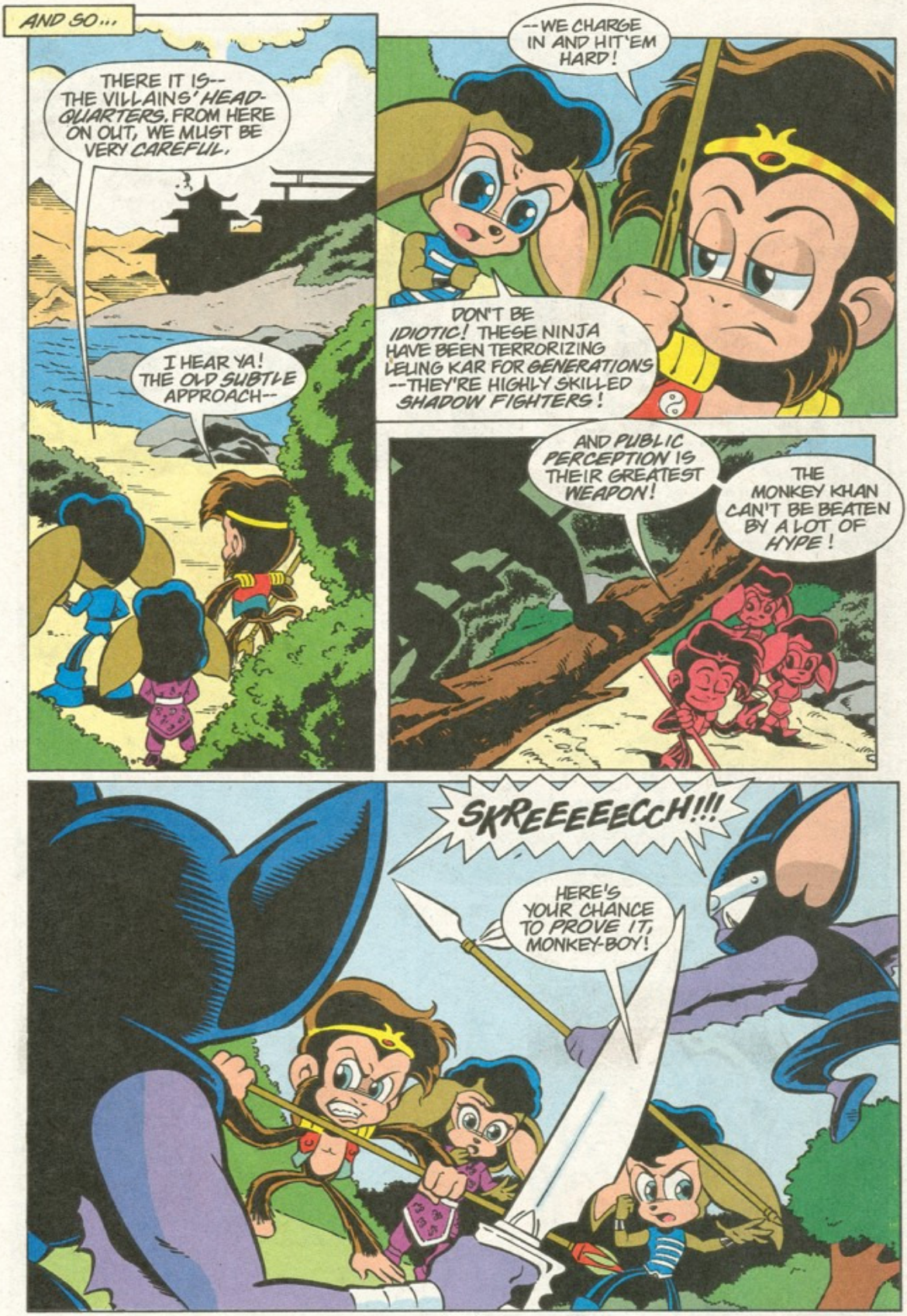
"EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING WAS SCREAMING AS I FORCED MYSELF TO SUPER-SUPER SPEED ONE FINAL TIME."
YOU LOOK LONELY, ROBOTNIK. DON'T WORRY, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME COMPANY.
OH, NO!
I HATE THAT HEDGEHOG.
I'VE GOT TO THINK QUICK. HOW CAN I GET SNIVELY TO ENTER THE SECURITY CODE?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE RUNNING ON EMPTY, SONIC-- IT'S ABOUT TIME.
NEVER... BEEN SO... EXHAUSTED...

PLEASE, I CAN'T STAND TO SEE SONIC IN SUCH PAIN. USE THE RAY ON HIM AGAIN AND PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY.
MY PLEASURE. ANOTHER DOSE AND SONIC IS NO MORE! HEH, HEH.
ACCESS
DON'T WORRY, SONIC, WITH THE RAY IN REVERSE--
EEYOW!
THANKS, SNIVELY! IT FEELS GOOD TO BE BACK UP TO SPEED AGAIN!
BUT... BUT... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU SHOULD BE DEAD!
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WHEN YOU HAVE GREAT FRIENDS LIKE I DO, LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
DRAT! DRAT! DRAT!!
OH, SONIC, I JUST LOVE YOUR STORIES. TELL ME MORE!
OKAY, BUT I'LL TRY NOT TO SPEED THROUGH THIS ONE. HA HA HA!
The End

SOME THOUSAND MILES EAST OF MOBOTROPOLIS LIE THE TOWNSHIPS OF LAU KAR--
-- A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY, WITH A SMALL PEST CONTROL PROBLEM...
STOP THIEF!!!
THE TEMPLE OF THE GOLDEN LOTUS HAS BEEN ROBBED!!
DON'T JUST SIT THERE, FANG-- THE CROOKS ARE ESCAPING!
GRR! DARN YAGYU NINJA MUST'VE SNUCK IN THE BACK DOOR...!
THEY'RE SNEAKY & FAST, BUT ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON 'EM, IT'S ALL OVER!
IT'S ALL OVER FOR US IF THEY MAKE IT TO THE WOODS--WE'LL NEVER CATCH THEM!
NOT SO FAST, RODENTS!

MONKEY KHAN
IN:
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST ROB, STEAL AND PLUNDER WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES ?!?
BLOODSUCKERS LIKE YOU NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON-- COURTESY OF THE HARDEST WORKING CRIME-FIGHTER IN SHOWBIZ-- MONKEY KHAN!
DEN OF THIEVES
SCREEEEECHH!
HA! TRYING TO DIVERT MY ATTENTION SO YOU CAN ESCAPE, HUH? THAT TRICK NEVER--
FWACK!
FWACK!

--WORKS...?
WHAT THE DEVIL...? THEY VANISHED INTO THIN AIR! NO ORDINARY CROOKS POSSESS SUCH MAGIC POWERS!
ORDINARILY, THEY'RE NOT, BUT THEIR POWERS ARE STRICTLY SLEIGHT OF HAND!
MEMBERS OF THE YAGYU CLAN ARE NOTORIOUSLY SLIPPERY!
BY NOW, THEY'RE PROBABLY HALFWAY BACK TO THEIR LAIR AT THE HAUNTED LAKE, AND WE DARE NOT FOLLOW.
A HAUNTED LAKE? YOU SHOULDN'T BE FOOLED BY SUCH A TALL TALE AS THAT!
MY SISTER, LIU CHI MEI IS NO FOOL! NEITHER IS LIU FANG!
IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THE LAKE IS HAUNTED BY A DRAGON!
I'VE SEEN A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS IN MY TRAVELS...BUT A DRAGON? NOT TOO LIKELY!
IF YOU'RE TOO AFRAID TO TAG ALONG, THE MONKEY KHAN WILL TACKLE THE YAGYU ON HIS OWN!
WHAT? AND MISS THE CHANCE TO WATCH A BLOWHARD LIKE YOU CRASH AND BURN?


AND SO...
THERE IT IS-- THE VILLAINS' HEAD-QUARTERS. FROM HERE ON OUT, WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL.
I HEAR YA! THE OLD SUBTLE APPROACH--
--WE CHARGE IN AND HIT 'EM HARD!
DON'T BE IDIOTIC! THESE NINJA HAVE BEEN TERRORIZING LELING KAR FOR GENERATIONS --THEY'RE HIGHLY SKILLED SHADOW FIGHTERS!
AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION IS THEIR GREATEST WEAPON!
THE MONKEY KHAN CAN'T BE BEATEN BY A LOT OF HYPE!
SKREEEEECCH!!!
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE IT, MONKEY-BOY!

THEIR NUMBERS ARE GREAT, BUT NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, FANG? NEED ANY HELP?
I CAN HOLD MY OWN... BUT IT MIGHT BE STRATEGIC TO MOVE THIS FIGHT TO HIGHER GROUND!
Heheheheh! QUITE BRAVE OF YOU CHILDREN TO FOLLOW OUR BACKTRAIL! LORD YAGYU IS SUITABLY IMPRESSED!
IF IT'S THE YAGYU FORTUNE YOU'RE AFTER, YOU'LL FIND THAT IT'S NOT SO EASILY TAKEN...
...AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN WHY!
HEY!!!
GOINK! WE'VE WALKED RIGHT INTO A TRAP!!

WELL, THEY SURE GOT THE DROP ON US! TALK ABOUT EMBARRASSING!
DON'T BE SO DISAPPOINTED, CHI MEI--CHECK THIS OUT!
IT'S ALL THEIR STOLEN LOOT... INCLUDING THE TEMPLE'S BELONGINGS!
THEY'VE ACTUALLY DONE US A FAVOR THROWING US INTO THEIR TREASURE CHAMBER, FUNNY THING IS, I WOULD'VE THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER GUARDED...
HROAR!
EEEE! THE LEGEND'S TRUE--THE DRAGON IS REAL!!
DRAGON...?
THAT'S NO DRAGON--THAT'S A ROBOT!
OKAY, SO IT'S A ROBOT- DRAGON! EITHER WAY, WE'RE TOAST!

HAHAHAHA! LIKE HIS YAGYU MASTERS, THE MIGHTY DRAGON KAMEZON HAS A TASTE FOR GOLD!
AT THE MOMENT, HE'S HOMING IN ON THAT PRICELESS HEADBAND OF YOURS!
TERRIFIC! AND I SUPPOSE THE AWESOME MONKEY KHAN IS TOO PIG-HEADED TO SIMPLY GIVE IT UP?
NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT, HOPPY!
THAT KAMEZON IS BY NO MEANS AN INTELLIGENT CREATURE, SO HE MUST BE PROGRAMMED WITH SOME SORT OF...
...TRACKING DEVICE!
YOWZA!
THIS OUGHTTA GET RESULTS!

FER-SHOOOM!
SKREEEEECH!
CURSE THEM! THEY'VE TURNED THE BEAST AGAINST HIS OWN FAMILY!!
HEE-HEE! LOOK AT 'EM GO! WITH HIS HOMING DEVICE SHOT, KAMEZON IS TOTALLY CLUELESS!
IT'S ALL HERE-- EVERY LAST STOLEN ARTICLE FROM THE PAST FIFTY YEARS!
YOU'RE A HERO, KHAN! WHY NOT COME BACK TO TOWN AND REVEL IN YOUR GLORY?
WHAT? AND RUIN MY OWN HYPE? NOT A CHANCE...!
END

TAILS in GHOST-BUSTED!
A FUNNY THING HAPPENED TO ME ON A CAMPING TRIP.

I STARTED OUT THE DAY WITH SONIC SHOWING ME THE ROPES ON FINDING CLUES...
...WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN--
AAAA

C'MON, ANTOINE. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS.
YOU GOT IT, BIG GUY.
OH? NO SUCH THEENG AS GHOSTS, Eh?
WELL, MEESTER SMARTY-PANTIES, I KNOW WHAT I AM SEEING AND WHAT I AM SEEING EES EH GHOST AND I AM READY TO BE ATTACKING.
AFTER WE SET UP CAMP THAT NIGHT, SONIC TOLD ME THE WAY COOLEST CAMPFIRE STORIES ABOUT...
...AND THEN THE HIGHWAY MAN MADE A MONDO MISTAKE. HE SNAGGED THE GOLD MEDALLION FROM THE SORCERER AND GOT A SPELL CAST ON HIM. FROM THEN ON, THE HIGHWAY MAN ROAMS THE FOREST AS THE "HEADLESS GOPHER."
SHHH...
STOP EET! I AM TRYING TO GO TO SLEEP.
CHILL, ANT. IT'S JUST A STORY.
3

OH YES, OF COURSE I AM ONLY KNOWING EET EES EH STORY. I WASN'T BORN TOMORROW. I WAS MAKING A FUNNY. Ha Ha.

ANTOINE FINALLY WENT TO SLEEP (WHAT A SCARDEY CAT HE IS), BUT AFTER A WHILE, ME AND SONIC STARTED TO GET SLEEPY, TOO.
THANKS FOR THE SCARY STORIES, SONIC.
NO PROB, BRO. HAVE A GOOD NIGHT. THERE'LL BE MORE TRAINING--YAWN-- TOMORROW.

NOTE TO MYSELF: NO MORE CAMP-FIRE STORIES!
I FELT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING WALKING IN THE FOREST...

...AND I KNEW IT WASN'T ONE OF MY NIGHTMARES ANYMORE.

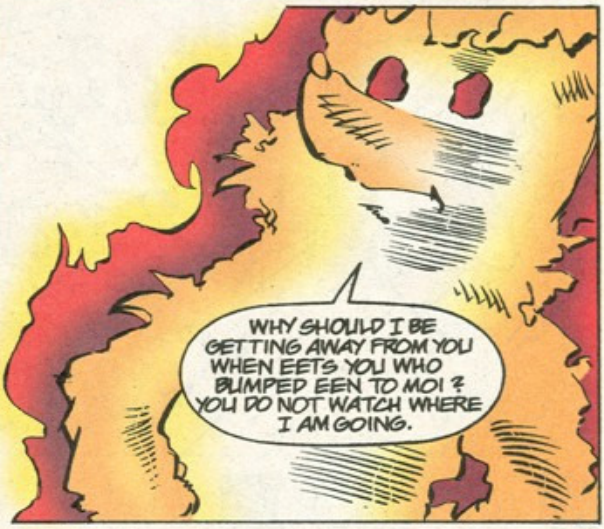
AAAAAAAAAA!!!
TAILS! WHAT'S WRONG?
4

I THINK I SAW THE "HEADLESS GOPHER."
C'MON, TAILS. EVEN ANTOINE KNOWS IT'S A STORY.
SPEAKING OF ANTOINE, WHERE IS HE?
AH, IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING. LET'S TAKE A SPIN AROUND. I'LL MEET YOU BACK HERE IN FIVE.
I KNOW THE "HEADLESS GOPHER" HAS HIM. I JUST KNOW IT!
oh no. I'm running out of steam..
whoaaa
THUMP
A FREEDOM FIGHTER STAYS COOL IN THE FACE OF DANGER.
TAILS! WHERE ARE YOU?
?
HE'S GOT TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
THE GHOST! HE MUST'VE BRAIN-WASHED SONIC AND NOW THEY'RE BOTH WORKING TOGETHER.
YOU GO TO THE LEFT. I'LL TAKE THE RIGHT.
5

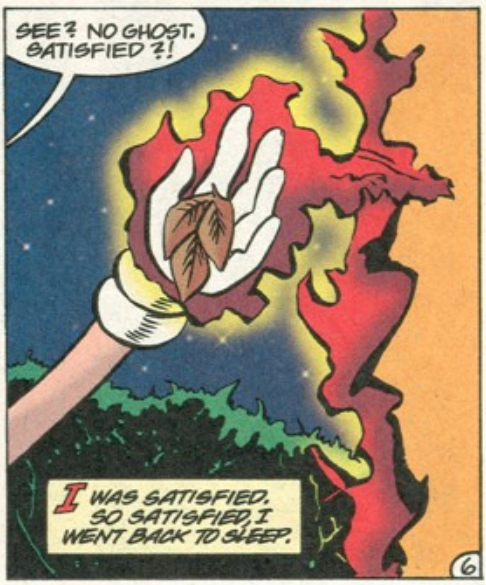
I'VE GOT TO GET "AUNT" SALLY. SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

SMACK!

Oh no! IT'S THE GHOST! GETAWAYGETAWAY GETAWAY!


WHY SHOULD I BE GETTING AWAY FROM YOU WHEN EETS YOU WHO BUMPED EEN TO MOI ? YOU DO NOT WATCH WHERE I AM GOING.

ANTOINE? BUT YOU LOOK LIKE--
IT'S COOL, TAILS. 'TWAN TOOK A SLEEP-WALK INTO SOME FOXFIRE BUSHES.

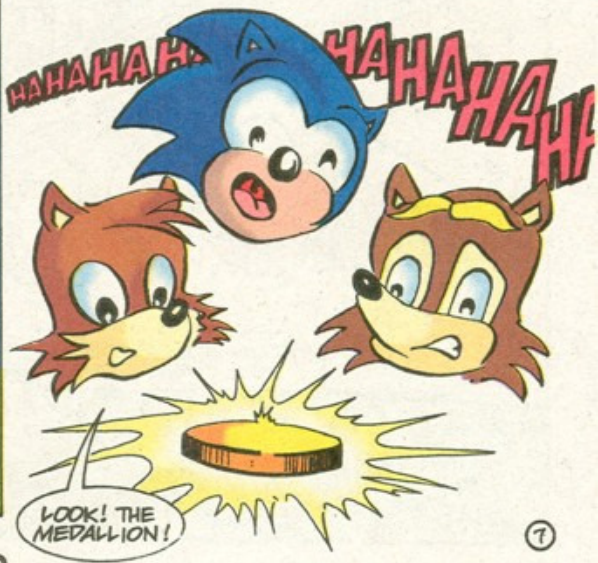

SEE? NO GHOST. SATISFIED?!
I WAS SATISFIED. SO SATISFIED, I WENT BACK TO SLEEP.
6

WE GOT UP EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...
MAKE SURE YOU BURY ALL OF IT, LITTLE MAN. DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO BURN.
OKAY, SONIC.
BOY, CAMPING SURE IS COOL! RIGHT, ANT?

TO THAT I SAY "HA!" AND AGAIN, I SAY "HA!"
MISERABLE STUPID CAMPING!

SONIC, COULD YOU TELL ME SOME MORE GHOST STORIES, PLEASE?
I DON'T KNOW. THINGS GOT A LITTLE FREAKY LAST NIGHT.
YEAH, BUT NOW I KNOW THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS.

WELL, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT LATER. RIGHT NOW, LET'S GET ALL YOUR THINGS AND JUICE.
S-S-SONIC. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS, RIGHT?
RIGHT. WHY?


HAHAHA
HAHAHA
LOOK! THE MEDALLION!

HAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
SWOOSH!
ZOOOOM!
+HAAAAHHH!!!
WE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY ABOUT THAT DAY--
--IT WAS OUR LITTLE SECRET--
--AND NOW IT'S YOURS, TOO. Shhhhh!
END

SONIC-GRAMS SPECIAL

I DON'T USUALLY ATTEND COMIC BOOK CONVENTIONS, BUT I FEEL THE NEED TO THIS TIME!
AH, YOU WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR FANS...
MULTI-MEGA COMIC CON
BRIDGE THE GAP TO THE READER... THANK THEM FOR THEIR LOYALTY...
FREE BEANY BAG BABY TO FIRST 100 CUSTOMERS!
MMM... NOT EXACTLY...
A

OFF PANEL By Gallagher and Manak

THIS JUST IN!

What's up, Knux fans? It's your editor Justin Freddy Gabrie (a.k.a. J.F.G.) and I'm here to talk to you about all our little changes that started first with Sonic The Hedgehog #67, Knuckles The Echidna #22 and has continued with this issue Sonic Super Special #8. As you've seen, thay all carry an icon representing Sonic, Knuckles or both. This will help you identify the Sonic comics at a glance and will distinguish them from the rest of the other books on the market.

These issues are each debuting a new feature for the letters page we're naming "Off Panel," a humor strip by Sonic veterans Mike Gallagher and Dave Manak. From time to time, we will sport a 'Letter of the Month' so if you want to be singled out, write to us about a specific story (or story arc) that really made you think or feel, good or bad. We hope these little changes will make the books that much more entertaining to read.

Just so you know, all these changes are being done to represent the changes in our favorite characters' lives. In Sonic The Hedgehog, Sonic returns to Mobotropolis and just isn't ready for all the surprises in store for him and The Freedom Fighters. And as far as Knuckles The Echidna is concerned, Knuckles and all his ancestors are set for a collision course that reaches a fever pitch in Knuckles' 25th issue! The specials will continue their quarterly tradition of giving you our most offbeat stories. In fact, next issue features the popular return of... SONIC KIDS! So stick around for a new year of fun and excitement as only Sonic and Knuckles can bring to you. So until next time...

Catch you on the flip side!

Send letters to:

SONIC-GRAMS SPECIAL #8

c/o Archie Comics Publications, Inc.

P.O. Box #419

Mamaroneck, NY 10543

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

jfreddyg@archiecomics.com

WEBSITE: www.archiecomics.com

SEGA WEBSITE: www.sega.com

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

We received a lot of mail for Sonic Super Special #5: Sonic Kids, so let's get right to it:

Dear Sonic-Grams Special,

Sonic Kids was great to read. I just got the issue yesterday. I love to see The Freedom Fighters as little kids. Sonic, Tails and Antoine looked so cute! To see Tails first learn how to fly was so cool! The second story about how Tails got his new sneakers was my favorite. And its good to see that Sonic was funny even when he was little. The names he would call Robotnik (Eggface, Eggbelly, Chrome Dome, 10W40 Breath, and Robuttnik) are the same ones he used right up to when Robotnik vanished. Also, teel Nelson Ribeiro and John Hebert how much I liked the way they drew the characters in "Total Re;Genesis. The cover was very nice. I hope to see more of Sonic Kids in future issues. Thanks.

Mary Ann Rosales
Kamuela, HI

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I just read your latest special and I think that it's fantastic. I just love all the great artwork in it, especisIly Art Mawhinney's art. I don't understand why Tails' uncle would trade those shoes for a bag of rocks. Who would want a bunch of stones? The next special "Sonic 50- Director's Cut" looks like it's gonna be hot!

Joel Hamlet
Lakeside, CA

Hey, Mary Ann and Joel. Glad you both enjoyed the Sonic Kids Special. As far as Joel's question about the rocks, Merlin Prower wanted to give the shoes to Sonic without looking suspicious so he made up the fact that he was willing to trade them for a bunch of stones. It worked, didn't it?

Whazzup, Sonic?

I've never written to you or your crew but I just couldn't stand not to anymore. I just want you to know I'm one of your many #1 fans who has his room plastered with every Sonic accessory you could think of. I have only one question: Is that a giga-pet Sally's holding on the cover of Sonic Kids? — and if so, what kind of giga-pet is it? (Alright, so it's really two.) Well, catch you on the flip side!

Nathan "Chip" Turner (age 12)
Las Vegas, NV

Yes, that is a giga-pet Sally is holding in her hand and it happens to be Muttski in that little screen.

Yo Sonic!

I think Sonic Kids was da' bomb! I want to see more Amy Rose and Lupe's Wolfpack in your comics. What are the names of your other super specials?

Krysta "The Fox" Delfino
Sunnyville, CA

Your wish is now being fulfilled as Lupe and her crew are appearing in Sonic #67-#69 and so is Amy Rose starting with #68. On the specials, check out our list of them in the Sonic Checklist ad.

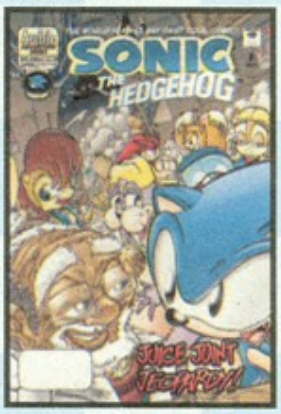
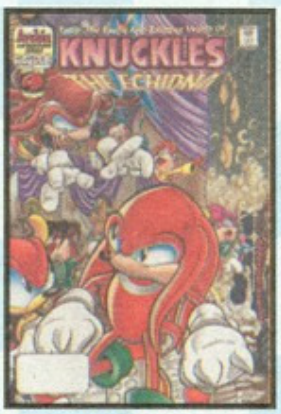
Well, that's all for now. Thanks to everyone who wrote in so until next issue...

Keep it real!

Cover by Patrick Spaziante and Harvey Mercadoocasio. Colors and separations by Nelson Ribeiro.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

***In Two Weeks:** The vigil beside Queen Alicia's bedside continues in peace — or so Sonic and The Freedom Fighters think. They are being stalked by a mysterious enemy that will make their presence known by the end of the issue. And wait until you find out what they want. Story by Karl Bollers with art by Steven Butler and Pam Eklund. Also: Lupe and The Wolf Pack, Part Three of Three! 'Nuff said! By Ken Penders and Sam Maxwell! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #69 on sale late January 1999!*

***In Four Weeks:** The Dark Legion's plan is underway and it's caught everyone unaware except for our favorite Guardian. But Dimitri and his crew are more than ready for Knuckles and The Chaotix this time. Check out the second installment of Dark Alliance in "Election Night!" by Ken Penders , Jim Valentino and Harvo! KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #23 on sale early February 1999!*

***And Next Issue:** They're back! SONIC KIDS!!! Presenting stories from The Freedom Fighters' formative years. All stories written by Michael Gallagher. They include: 1) Sonic and crew's first zone experience illustrated by Sam Maxwell and Harvo!; 2) We finally see how Princess Sally and Knuckles met (first shown in Sonic #44) by Manny Galan and Jim Amash!; And 3) The day Tails was born by Art Mawhinney and Rich Koslowski! 'Nuff said. Look for SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #9 to be on sale late March 1999!*